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H.440

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representative Sims of Craftsbury

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Government; environmental justice; climate change; energy;

infrastructure; economic development; labor standards

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a program establishing “Green Justice Zones.” A Green Justice Zone designation would provide pilot funding for at least two communities to establish a community-led, participatory planning, budgeting, and referendum process. This process would implement projects to address social and environmental vulnerabilities in that community. All jobs created to address social and environmental vulnerabilities under this program shall meet or exceed the prevailing industry wage, not less than \$15 an hour. These jobs shall also include access to collective bargaining rights and high-quality benefits to workers. Any program created under this bill would equip workers with the skills they need for any job created. The unionized workforce shall be prioritized for conducting related workforce development programs and recruitment for these jobs will prioritize local workers with low income and workers who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color.

